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Dear Bill,  
I send you a copy of this of your info.  
Since I gave names and diagnoses, please don't  
put it on file but destroy when you have gleaned  
from it the information you need.  
K.

Dr. Robert Conard, M.D.  
BNL, Medical Dept.  
Upton, N.Y. 11973

Kwajalein 1/14/74

REPOSITORY DOE/MSO  
COLLECTION DOE/MV  
BOX No. 1228 "EAD" # 3"  
Bio-Med Dr. Conard  
FOLDER 01 Thru 12/1974

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Dear Bob,

We are safely back from Rongelap, and for once I can report on a successful trip. It was brought short by the emergency evacuation of I had treated her for some time for what turned out to be the correct diagnosis: Incomplete abortion with pelvic inflammation, but then I decided that the odds for an extrauterine pregnancy got so strong that I had to get her to Kwajalein before it was too late. We got in Saturday, they operated on her yesterday and she is now in good condition.

From the time I called John Iaman about the situation until the ship arrived 40 hours had passed, and it was another 20 hours before we docked at Kwajalein. This is hardly what I would call emergency response, but it is par for the course, and nobody in particular is to blame. I had the feeling of sitting on a time bomb, and I was kicking myself for not having pushed the panic-button sooner.

The situation brought home to me some of the dangers of my position. I do have a TT licence to practise medicine, so they cannot accuse me of illegal action; but I am a free lance operator as far as TT is concerned. My instructions from you deal only with the thyroid program. What happens when I get involved in case like that and I misjudge the situation and the patient dies? Am I on my own? In that case I have to take out malpractice insurance. For it is impossible to be there and not get involved and I cannot call in a ship for everybody with stomach pains or temperatures above 100. Do you have some suggestion?

On Bikini I counted 32 boxes of lead. There was 7 blocks showing, and they appeared to be 2 layers deep. All I could check were intact. If you need more I am told that up the chain there are lead slabs weighing 5 tons each. Just bring a blowtorch and start cutting a piece. Any way you can count on having about 450 blocks of standard size on Bikini.

The whole body counter on Rongelap can also be easily reconstructed. I am sure all the lead is there.

Back to Bikini. It is several hundred yards from where the lead is stored to the closest bunker. It has many rooms; I measured those closest to the entrance: 21 x 25 ft.; 16 x 25 ft; and 16 x 20 ft. It will be tough to carry them there, and once they are on a vehicle I would suggest to take them to the old power plant by the airstrip. It measures 47 x 36 ft. and is light and airy. The logistics of getting the patients there will be much simpler than dragging them way into the bush.

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Your problem then, is to get a vehicle to the island. There is a tractor left on the old dock, but I doubt that anybody could start it. There are vehicles on Bikini islet, but their LCM is, to quote Ziegler, inoperative, so you would have to bring in your own LCU to transport them across the lagoon.

and families have moved to Bikini and plan to spend the next 5 years there. is still on Ebeye, and will join on the next trip there. She is getting stronger, and the kids looked like they needed some motherly love.

joined me on the trip across to Enui, or whatever is the name for the islet with the airstrip. It was new year's Day. After the surveying we proceeds to the pass to do some trolling, but it was too rough. We took one 50 lbs tuna for him to bring home and went straight back. I saw later that everybody else was helping themselves to a part, so maybe I should have paid him for the day after all. He could have made money helping to offload the ship, and I figured that the tuna would be ample compensation.

his/  
Rongelap was a pleasure from the first day. Nelson is growing with job as magistrate. I have never seen the village cleaner. I think at this time if we brought in a dozen rakes and donated to the council they would be put to good use. The pigs have been constrained to pigsties and you will no longer wake up in the night to oink of a sow with her litter under the tent floor. Nelson has joined the church. No smoking and drinking. They are in the process of passing an alcohol ordinance in the council, applying to "domestic and foreign". New Year's night Banjo had gone amoc and stoned the church during the service. Ask Bill about the havoc Bolkein and George created when we were there in September, and you will have sympathy for their efforts to curb it. Nelson said he was not going to interfere with your happy hour, but be prepared to pass and enforce an ukas that we all abide by the rules as they might be when we get there.

The new minister, Rev. Bwain, and his wife are nice and helpful people. The steeple is finished on the church, but they need more paint to finish its decoration.

One of the advantages of traveling back and forth in time as we cross the datelines, is that you can pick a convenient day. Remember Bill Pochin who celebrated his 63rd, 64th, and 65th birthdays in two days crassing back and forth from Majuro to Kwaj to Honolulu? Last year for instance I decided not to celebrate my birthday on the day they buried

*On Bikini we lived*  
This year we were idle on the ocean, and opted for two thanksgivings *at* two birthdays, two new years eves and two silver wedding anniversaries. For the last of the anniversaries I took the afternoon off and took Liv up to Eniaetak where Nelson and his wife had gone to do the laundry. We took and a rainbow runner on the line on our way home. In the evening we had a full moon, a becalmed sea; we were sitting outside the tent with fish on the barbeque, at peace with the village and the world; what more can you ask after 25 years?

The sick-calls were busy. Having been rather critical of Jobwe's performance

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in the past, I have to give him due praise. The dispensary was clean, he swept it every morning, he was there on time, he had clean water, soap and towels ready; his whole attitude seemed different and it made the work a pleasure. We were never finished before noon and I saw up to 17 patients in one morning. We had our share of impetigo and otitis media, but also some problematic cases. There was another case of incomplete abortion

I wanted her to come to Majuro for a D&C but for some reason she was not on the boat when we left. I hope she comes on the next field trip. husband) had dyspeptic complaints and epigastric pain. I found a tumor in the epigastrium and took him along to be examined in Majuro. He may be too old for an operation, even if they find a ca. xentr. but I did not want him to be deprived of the option.

In the afternoon we worked on the trailers. I shall write in more detail to Bill Streenan about this and mail a copy to you. Liv scrubbed the mess, galley and X-ray in operation-room fashion, it was quite a job. We had started on the examination trailers when we had to leave.

In the evenings I took a crew out for fishing and we fed the whole village for a week. One night we brought in maybe 400 lbs, probably much more. We had 25 fish, the largest maybe 50 - 60 lbs and none smaller than 15. Altogether we brought in 1000 lbs or more during the week. I wish I could name them all. Some of the names are easy, but the most plentiful fish is a whitemeat tuna which they call "jilu" and which I have no name for. Bryan in his book places it among the leather jacks and calls it *Scomberoides Sancti-Patri*, whatever that is. The largest specimen we landed I estimated at 100 lbs. There is another big game which they call a barracuda, but it is not. It has a dorsal fin like a marlin but lacks the beak. We pulled in one that was 7 feet long. We also caught a specimen of the real "great barracuda" but it wasn't too long. maybe 4-5 feet. I probably gained more popularity on the boat than on my sick calls. It ended on a slightly sour note. When I got sick I wouldn't let Jobwe or me leave the village. I don't know if we could really have done anything for her had it come to the worst, but I would at least not be caught away from the village when something happened, and I know I would have tried something if the situation were desperate enough. So I yielded to the pleas from Nick, Nelson, Tarikijet and Emos to take the boat. They came home with a good catch, 15 fish or so, and had lost 3 of my lures; which was too bad, but what can you do. But later I learned that Tarikijet had taken all the fish home and salted it instead of giving it out. That made me lose my cool for a minute. I don't mind losing \$ 30 of equipment and 10 gallons of hard-to-get gas for the welfare of Rongelap but I refused to Finance Tarikijet in making salt fish for selling at the ship. I put it to Nelson to straighten it out, he is the magistrate and Tarikijet's brother. He promised to do something but I fear in the end the philadelfic instincts were stronger than the magistral: I guess I have to write it off on education.

I also learned anew that you have to supervise every step of your preparation personally. This time Global had put my boxes on a pallet without strapping them, on Militobi it was placed in the hold on top of the coprabags and I had to pick them up from all over the hold when offloading at Rongelap.

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I was lucky. I lost only a box of Coca-cola and a box of outboard motor oil. Fortunately Doug had a box stored in the generator shed, of which I used a six-pack during the week. (Motor-oil, that is.)

They are low on water already, and the dry season just started. Our four containers are full, and I think sooner or later we should release it for the welfare of the people. The rains are hopefully back when we arrive in April, but do some fast calculations on our needs and how much you can carry, and then let us tell Nelson to distribute what we can spare from the stores there. And let us put up a container in each of the remaining two corners of the tent. It is the best catchment in the village.

Liv is willing to come along and cook for us. That won't cost you anything. The condition is that Ernie will help her with the planning and the supervision. She also will need some cleaning help, especially on Rongelap. You may have problems with accommodations on board, and if you don't like the idea, let me know. But you can't get a better cook.

What kind of tape-recorder do you want? I have a good cassette-recorder which I can use to pipe in music anywhere. If that is what you intend we shall use that. If you need a reel-to-reel recorder I need more specifications. I suggest we use mine. If we need a permanent installation there is time to do it after we have tried how it works.

The following on Rongelap stopped taking thyroid as of this week:

The following continue:

I don't know why we kept \_\_\_\_\_ on. Both Jobwe and I seemed to agree she had been operated on, but that is not so? Maybe it is the gynecology that confused us.

The following on Ebeye will be stopped tomorrow:

The following will continue:

I shall go to Majuro next week and take care of the rest.

I shall have to order drugs after all. Jormae on Bikini and Jobwe cleaned me out. I shall mail you a list this week. What you cannot get in time to ship, I shall order through the pharmacy here or from Honolulu.

Tibas was out of dressing-material. I had enough to help him through March. You once offered him to go to Honolulu for evaluation and possible orthopedic revision. If you can repeat this offer now, he will take it. Tripler ought to take him as a charity case, they have enough unused capacity to do it. He needs H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, phisohex, bacitracin ointment, gauze (2x2, 4x4, and rolls) and adhesive tape. I shall buy

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two pairs of new sneakers in Macy's. It is getting to be one of my fixed expenses. He never offers to pay. I assume he thinks AEC is footing the bill.

For \$ 60K I shall go to the Phillipines, hire a crew and sail the LCU down here for you. How is that for an offer?

1/15/74

is in good shape. She had blood transfusions yesterday. The problem of go on Rongelap should be attacked. If we did a serologic screening on all sexually active (that is everybody 11 years and older) I will bet you even money that we would find more than 50% positive. We could of course go in and give every man woman and child a dose of 5 mill U procapol like a vaccination every time a ship had been in the lagoon, but you might end up with some nasty allergic responses. There must be a better way. Discuss it with some public health people. TT has a VD program, but it does not get beyond the district centers.

I should probably count my blessings. The evacuation brought us back here in time to wave farewell to Tore. He leaves on Friday. But I am sorry to have left the work on the trailers and the tent half finished. I would have liked to be there and see it through.

About ID cards. The police department in Majuro has a portable Polaroid machine that makes cards with color photo bound in plastic, for their drinking permits. Maybe they could lend it to you for some weeks, or you could rent one from some other source?

What else is there to say except Yokwe, and Jenaj bar lodron ilo March!

Yours

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